

Safe Use and Removal of Respirators

WAC 296-842-180

Summary

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To make sure respirator use and removal is safe



Exemption:

These sections do **not** apply to employees who voluntarily use any type of respirator. See WAC 296-842-110 for voluntary use requirements.

You must

Prevent sealing problems with tight-fitting respirators
WAC 296-842-18005 180-2

Make sure employees leave the use area before removing respirators
WAC 296-842-18010 180-3





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Rule

WAC 296-842-18005

Prevent sealing problems with tight-fitting respirators

You must

- Make sure employees use the procedure in WAC 296-842-22020 to perform a user seal check each time they put on their tight-fitting respirator.
- Make sure you do **not** permit respirator use if employees have a characteristic that interferes with the respirator facepiece seal or valve function. For example, stubble, moustaches, sideburns, bangs, hairlines, or scars between the face and the sealing surface of the respirator will affect the seal.
- Make sure corrective glasses or personal protective equipment (PPE) do **not** interfere with the facepiece seal. Examples of PPE include safety glasses, goggles, faceshields, clothing, and hard hats.

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Rule

WAC 296-842-18010

Make sure employees leave the use area before removing respirators

You must

- Make sure employees leave the use area for **any** of these reasons:
 - To replace air-purifying filters, cartridges, or canisters
 - When they smell or taste (detect) vapor or gas leakage from, for example, cartridges, canister, or the facepiece seal
 - When they detect changes in breathing resistance
 - To readjust their respirators
 - To wash their faces and respirators as necessary to prevent skin or eye irritation
 - If they become ill
 - If they experience sensations of dizziness, nausea, weakness, breathing difficulty, coughing, sneezing, vomiting, fever, or chills.

